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## BOOK REVIEWS



IN CHARGE OF

M. E. CAMERON

**FEVER-NURSING.** By I. C. Wilson, A.M., M.D., author of "A Treatise on the Continued Fevers," and "A Handbook of Medical Diagnosis"; Visiting Physician to the Pennsylvania Hospital; Physician-in-chief to the German Hospital, Philadelphia; Emeritus of the Practice of Medicine, and of Clinical Medicine, in the Jefferson Medical College; Consulting Physician to the Rush Hospital for Consumptives and the Jewish Hospital, etc. Seventh edition. Price, \$1.00. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia.

An old and valued friend, this book still finds something new to teach; the present edition demonstrates the part played by insects in the transmission of disease. The book is so well known both to nurses in training and to those on private duty that it only requires a word to say that it is with us again and better than ever.

**HIMSELF—TALKS WITH MEN CONCERNING THEMSELVES.** By Dr. E. B. Lowry and Dr. Richard I. Lambert. Price, \$1.00. Publishers, Forbes and Company, Chicago.

Uniform with the set of books published for women and children on sexual hygiene, Dr. Lowry in collaboration with Dr. Lambert presents the same subject to the consideration of men. In the same simple and direct manner as in those other books, the anatomy, physiology, hygiene, and pathology of the male generative organs are discussed, so far as is essential for men to instruct themselves concerning matters of vital importance to themselves and their children.

**PSYCHOTHERAPY**, including the History of the Use of Mental Influence, Directly and Indirectly, in Healing, and the Principles for the Application of Energies Derived from the Mind to the Treatment of Disease. By James I. Walsh, M.D., Ph.D., Dean and Professor of Functional Diseases and of the History of Medicine at Fordham University School of Medicine, and of Physiological Psychology at the Cathedral College, New York; Fellow of New York Academy of

Medicine; Member of A.M.A., A.A.A.S., New York State Medical Society, German Society for the History of Medicine and the Physical Sciences, New Orleans Parish Medical Society, St. Louis Medical History Club, etc. Price, \$6.00. D. Appleton Company, New York and London.

This book, which is addressed to medical students rather than specialists, is written, says the author, in language "as untechnical as possible" and was meant to be such as the young physician might use to patients for suggestive purposes. For this reason perhaps, nurses will find it particularly attractive reading in spite of its ponderous bulk, and, for nurses, prohibitive price. Those who know the writings of Doctor Walsh need only to be told that the first section of the book is devoted to the history of psychotherapeutics, and begins with I-em-Helep, physician in the reign of King Teshor of Egypt, 4000 B.C., to be assured of such entertainment as they have not known since they were regaled with fairy stories beginning "once upon a time." A nurse who has been faithfully carrying out doctors' orders for twenty-five or thirty years may perhaps feel she has been the victim of the blind leader, leading the blind, when she remembers with what fidelity she applied the flaxseed poultice on the minute—when she notes that this same poultice helps swell the rubbish heap of discarded treatments that Doctor Walsh seems to find no small satisfaction in building. The nurse may also be surprised to find that the improvement which she duly noted and recorded as following some of the condemned treatments is due wholly to the suggestion that went with its application. The use of drugs is not condemned. The list of drugs is cut down to a very small number and these, it is claimed, can be doubled in value by intelligently coupling with their use, psychotherapeutic influence. Like many of his books Doctor Walsh makes this one emphasize the fact that he is not making new discoveries in medicine, but merely digging up and utilizing agencies known and used in past ages and discarded and forgotten for newer and more popular treatment. Many books which advocate the use of the mind for the healing of the body insist on a certain attitude—it may be religious—which arouses antipathy and makes for the refusal of co-operation on the part of the patient or nurse or both. The eminently practical which is the keynote of Doctor Walsh's book removes this stumbling block, and the nurse who reads must appreciate how great is her power to help or retard treatment by her attitude of mind, and if she is the conscientious worker that her school vouches for, she will see to it that her influence is with, and not against, the physician. According to the author there is no field of medicine where the application of psychotherapy will not assist any other

class of treatment employed and in many it supersedes all other treatment. Certainly no book has come under the notice of the reviewer in a long time that offers more food for thought to the earnest nurse.

ELEMENTS OF ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY. By W. Bernard Secretan. Price, 2 shillings. Second edition. The Scientific Press, 28-29 Southampton St., London.

One of the tiny morsels that come to us from time to time from the old country—so simple that the mere list of bones, blood-vessels, organs and functions would seem to be impossible to revise, since man is made on the same old pattern—but here it is in its second edition—this time with the addition of a tiny chapter on the generative organs. It seems a pity that the knowledge and literary ability that should produce this kind of book is not put to better use. No nurse, no midwife, and not even pupils in the public schools should be offered such inadequate teaching as this book conveys.

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS AND APPLIANCES. By Harold Burrows, M.B. (Lond.), B.S., F.R.C.S., late assistant surgeon to the Seaman's Hospital and to the Bolingbroke Hospital. Fourth Edition. Price 1/6 net. The London Scientific Press Limited, 28-29 Southampton St., Strand, London, W. C.

This little book may find its mission for those who need reminders when preparing the instruments for operation. Bearing in mind that each operator has his own list of instruments and that each one is liable to use one instrument in preference to another, the author makes a selection which bids fair to cover all requirements.